legislation on Banning The Sex Deter-. munition Test

196. SHRl KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA. Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstaried Question 1500 given in the Rajya Sabha on 19th November, 1986 and state:

(a) whether government haJVe since examined the matter regarding conducting of amniocentesis tests for determination of the sex of foetus from technical, legal and public education points of view;

(b) if so, what are the details of the study made ' and the decisions taken in,. regard thereto; and

(c) whether Government propose to' bring a legislation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE), (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A meeting on' sex Determination test and Amniocentesis was held on 19-12-86 in New Delhi which was at tended by renowned Social Women Orga nisations, Women Activists, Medical; Professionals and Jurists, There was consensus of the opinion of members that these tests should be banned. in the private sector organisations like Nursing Homes and clinics etc. and these should be limited to se<]ected Government re search institutions and hospitals to be licensed for the same. The meeting also recommended that there should be a comprehensive legislation having in-built mechanism for an infrastructure for im plementation of the legislation effectively.

(c) A committee has been constituted which will go into this question in de tail.

Basic Passenger Amenities Provided by , . Railways

197. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA; Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite Various measures taken by Government, the basic amenities provided to the tra-velling public are lacking, the conditions of the, coaches, cleanliness of the com-partments and the quality of food supplied has been deteriorating and that there have been persistent complaints by the passengers on this account;

(b) if so, what is the machinery res-ponsible for providing and looking after the basic amenities for the railway pas sengers and for the maintenance of coa ches stating the periodicity of its checks to remove the deficiencies wherever no ticed;

(c) what is the role of the Zonal Rail way Councils in this regard and whether Government have reviewed their wor-king to assess their utility, if so, what are the details thereof; and

(d) what remedial measures are pro posed to be taken by Government to improve the overall performance of the, railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Tha basic amenities for travelling public. are being fully catered for; the condition of coaches is generally satisfactory, cleanliness of compartments assured and qua lily of food supplied good.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The role of Zonal Council is to provide a liaison agency and a permanent communication channel between th© usei|public and lndian Railways. The forum is used for bringing out Railways' shortcomings in regard to passenger amenjjities, services offered and removal of other public grievances. These Councils have been found useful.

(d) Constant efforts are made to improve the overall performance of Railways, specially provision of passenger amenities and other user amenities. Exclusive budgetary provision of Rs. t9 crores was made in 1986-87. Some of the steps taken to improve the overall performance of the. Railways in this area are given in the endorsed statement.

Statement

Some of the Steps taken to improve. the overall performance of the Railways

1. To improve cleanliness of bath rooms, high pressure water jets at termi nals ana enroute have been introduced.

2. Water tank capacityof each lava tory on brqad gauge hasbeen increased from 318 litres to 455litres and on metre gauge from 960litres to 1206 litres per coach.

3. In the next three years, all wooden seats in II class coaches will be conver ted to cushion typ3 on long distance trains.

4. Drinking water facilities have been provided on all long distance trains and Nations.

5. Mobile train cleaning staff has been piovided on long distance trains during ilp. v journeys.

6. (To reduce overcrowding and to provide greater travelling comfort, First Class coaches are being replaced with Ilnd A. C. Sleepers.

7. Vestibuing is being' progressively introduced on important trains for the convenience of passengers.

8. Additional water coolers are being provided at Railway stations. 124 more stations were electrified during 1984-85. 141 beds in retiring rooms and 70 beds in dormitories were added in 1984-85. Additional retiring room facilities are being continuously provided.

9. A regular schedule of platform cleanliness, toilet cleanliness at stations has been catered for.

10. . Improved arlrangements for re servations, including computerisation, are in the process of being introduced or' have been introduced.

11. With a view to improve food quality and hygiene, serving of hot food in disposable aluminium casseroles has been introduced on selected trains in consultation with I. T. D. C.

12 With a view to provide clean and neat accommodation, Railway Yatri Niwas at New Delhi Railway Station has been I stalled and if found successful, will b© introduced elsewhere.

13. To wipe out the overaged coach arrears, a new Rail Coach Factory is being constructed and will be brought on stream by the end of the Seventh Plan.

14. Modernisation of base kitchens.

15. Periodic review of Catering Contractors' performance.

16. Replacement of 24 Volt battery system with End on and Mid on Generv . fion system.

17. Replacement of dynamos with al ternators.

18. Replacement of 2" dynamo t» witlj 4" belts.

Vaccine for Japanese encephal'ties

198. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

SHRl SURESH PACHOURI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any vaccine against Japanese encephalities (brain fever) has been. developed so far in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; arid

(c) if not, the progress of the research in developing such a vaccine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WfLI-ARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE',: (a) and (b) A mouse brain vaccine against Japanese Encephalitis has been developed by the Central Research Institute. Kasauli with Japanese assistance. I h vaccine has been successfully standardised and freeze dried. It will be avail-' able for use after completion of the final quality control tests and evaluation of its safety and efficacy in field conditions.

Studies are also being carried out at the National Institute of Virology, Pune using an indigenous strain.

(c) Does not arise.